

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, line 18 through page 23, line 7 of the specification (which was previously amended in Applicant's amendment filed May 4, 2006) with the following replacement paragraph:

One preferred aspect of the present invention has its basis in the procedure depicted in FIGS. 4 and 5. Distraction is carried out as set forth in the depicted procedure, resulting in the distraction set forth in FIG. 5. The expansion means 12 is removed, which results in unsupported expansion tissue that is relatively weak. A stabilizer 24 of the present invention, as discussed above, can be engaged in a variety of configurations to replace the expansion means at least in part and/or at least a portion of at least one of the transmitting means. One preferred aspect of this invention is a stabilizer made of macroporous PLA/PGA that corresponds roughly to the size and shape of the distal transmitting means, the distracted space, and the expansion means, including the flange of the expansion means that engages the slot 25 ~~[[26]]~~ of the proximal transmitting means 10A. The distal transmitting means is optionally removed, the stabilizer engaged, and the stabilizer preferably engaged with connective tissue at the location of the distal transmitting means using appropriate attachment structures 26 or devices as described herein. As discussed above, the choice of modulating the proximal or distal transmitting means is that of the surgeon based on the particular circumstances of the case at hand, including the relative invasive nature of the locus of the transmitting means, the safety of the procedure, and the desired result.